

REMARKS

Applicants and their representative thank Examiners Piggush and Vu for the professional and productive telephone interview on June 18, 2007. Applicants agree with the Interview Summary mailed by the Examiner on June 21, 2007.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 13, 27, 31, and 36. Claims 23-26 are allowed, and claims 27-30 have been amended to overcome an objection so these claims should be passed to allowance. Claims 1-41, of which claims 1, 23, 27 and 31 are independent in form, are presented for examination.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 12-17, 27-30, and 36 were objected to because they recite "a second switch" without mention a first switch. The term "second switch" was used to distinguish from the "first switch" recited in other claims because the switches are configured to couple to different features. Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the claims that were objected to and request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 12, 13, 20, 22, 31-36, 39, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,656,915 ("Eaves"); and claims 1, 18, 19, 21, 31, 37, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0109482 ("Anzawa"). Applicants do not concede to the Examiner's interpretation of Eaves or Anzawa and reserve the right to pursue the previously presented claims in one or more continued applications. To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the independent claims 1 and 31.

As amended, claim 1 and its dependent claims recite a system including a string of electrical energy storage units; and a power converter selectively coupled to an individual storage unit of the string of storage units. The power converter is configured to transfer energy bidirectionally between the individual storage unit and the string of storage units, and to balance state of charge of the individual storage unit to a target state of charge. The state of charge of the individual storage unit is determined from an impedance of the individual storage unit, a current of the individual storage unit, and the terminal voltage of the individual storage unit.

Claim 31 and its dependent claims, as amended, recite a system including a string of electrical energy storage units having a first end and a second end; and a buck-boost dc-dc power converter coupled simultaneously to a selected portion of the string of electrical energy storage units and to the first and second ends of the string of electrical energy storage units. The power

converter is configured to transfer energy bidirectionally between the selected portion of the string of storage units and the end points of the string of storage units.

As discussed in the interview, neither Eaves nor Anzawa discloses or suggests the systems covered by claims 1, 31, and their dependent claims. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 1, 31 and their dependent claims are patentable over the cited Eaves and Anzawa.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If allowance of this matter can be expedited, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned representative.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 50-3421 (referencing Attorney Docket No. TI01.702US).

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Thomas Fowler et al.

By their Representatives,
FINCH & NGUYEN PLLC

Date June 26, 2007

/Stephen Finch/
Stephen Finch
Reg. No. 42,534

Finch & Nguyen PLLC
P.O. Box 1358
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: (781) 968-5239
Facsimile: (781) 507-7538